



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of: **NISHIUCHI, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 1763

Serial No.: 10/615,381

Examiner: **Richard R. BUEKER**

Filed: **July 9, 2003**

**P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 1378**

For. **SURFACE TREATING PROCESS, SURFACE TREATING APPARATUS,  
VAPOR-DEPOSITING MATERIAL, AND RARE EARTH METAL-BASED  
PERMANENT MAGNET WITH SURFACE TREATED**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: April 20, 2006

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) for the above-captioned patent application. Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows: